

TWO NEW SPECIES OF WEEVILS OF THE
TRIBE CELEUTHETINI (COLEOPTERA)¹

Vasco M. Tanner

Moluccobius marshalli sp. n.

BODY in male and female black to red-brown, with pale green scales above; prothorax with a broad medium black stripe bordered by sublateral green stripes, which form concentric lateral figures centered by black areas devoid of scales; lower half of pleurae to the coxae covered with a continuum of sparse pale green scales; elytra with markings of scales as shown in Figure 1; a crescent band of scales extending from the base of interval 3 along the humeral region and laterally back along intervals 8 to 10 to the middle; interrupted band of scales at the middle; two spots below the declivity. Underside, mesosternum, metasternum and the ventrites sparsely covered with pale green scales.

HEAD smooth, except for a small medium fovea on the sulcus which separates the head from the rostrum. On many specimens this fovea is obscured by the dense covering of scales. EYES moderately convex; ROSTRUM longer than broad in the females, as broad as long in the males; dorsal area with a fine medium sulcus in the dense scales; ANTENNAE scape reaching to the middle of the prothorax, covered with white recumbent setae and small scales; funicle reaching the anterior two-fifths of the elytra; segment 2 a fourth longer than segment 3; PROTHORAX as long as broad, widest a little beyond the middle; dorsum convex, with deep close punctures, the intervals narrower than the punctures, with small shiny granules bearing a short recumbent white, brown, or black seta; the broad medium stripe bordered with long green scales, Figure 1. ELYTRA broadly ovate, widest before the middle; the striae with shallow round punctures devoid of setae; the broad intervals with small shiny granules bearing a recumbent seta; erect setae beyond the declivity along the suture; pale green scales forming a lunula in the humeral area; an interrupted band of scales at the middle and two prominent spots below the declivity. LEGS red-brown to black covered with grey or pale coppery scales and decumbent white setae on the dorsal; femora moderately clavate, first and second tibiae mucronate, metatibia with open corbel, spinules of distal comb amber color and longer than those of anterior comb; third tarsal segment twice as wide as the second and with heavy tufts of yellow pubescence. AEDEAGUS of the male spatulate Figs. 2 and 3, spermatheca Fig. 4.

LENGTH: 3-5.5 mm. BREADTH: 2-3 mm.

TYPE and 105 paratypes collected by Ernest Reimschiissel between October and December 1944, at the U. S. Pitu Military Airfield which was located between Pitoeo and Sabatai on Morotai Island. Paratypes have been deposited in the following institutions: British Museum. Natural History; U. S. National Museum; California

1. Contribution No. 172, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University.

Academy of Sciences; Museum, G. Frey, Tutzing; and Brigham Young University.

REMARKS: *Marshalli* is closely related to *wallacei*. It differs in

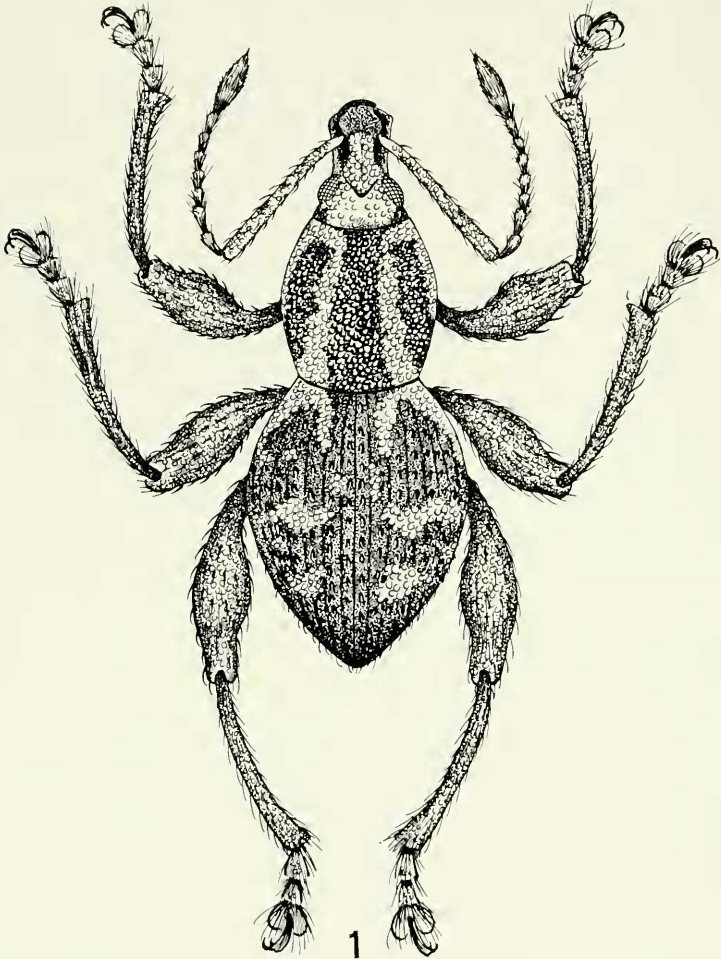


Fig. 1. *Moluccobius marshalli* sp. n.

scale pattern of the prothorax and elytra, is smaller and the aedeagus is broadly rounded not pointed, Fig. 2; *Marshalli* is fairly abundant on the vegetation around the Pitu Airfield at Pitoeo on Point Gila of

Morotai Island. Mr. Ernest Reimschiüssel, the collector, reported that he found it feeding on the sap which was exuding from damaged trees, in the open area around the military quarters.

Specimens of this species along with many other species from the Solomon, Admiralty and Moluccas Islands were submitted to Sir Guy Marshall of the British Museum of Natural History who report-

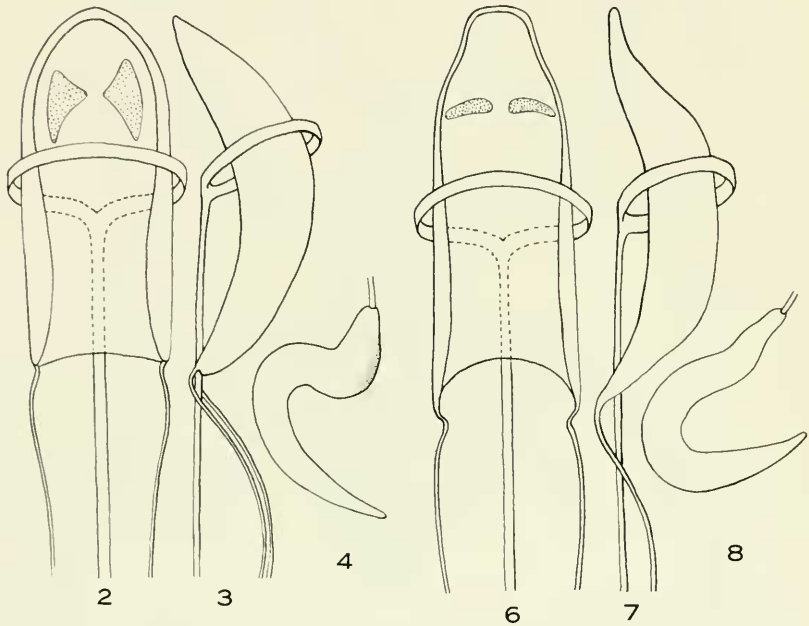


Fig. 2. *Moluccobius marshalli* sp. n. Dorsal view of median lobe of male.

Fig. 3. *Moluccobius marshalli* sp. n. Lateral view of the median lobe of male.

Fig. 4. *Moluccobius marshalli* sp. n. spermatheca.

Fig. 6. *Lophothetes reimschiüsseli* sp. n. Dorsal view of median lobe of male.

Fig. 7. *Lophothetes reimschiüsseli* sp. n. Lateral view of the median lobe of male.

Fig. 8. *Lophothetes reimschiüsseli* sp. n. spermatheca.

ed that several of them including this species of *Moluccobius* were new species. I am pleased to name this species in honor of Sir Guy Marshall, who was an outstanding authority on the weevils and a kind helper and cooperator. He assisted me in my study of the weevils while at the British Museum in 1957, and was very generous in giving to me Cotypes of many species of weevils he had recently described, along with specimens of 32 species of described Curculionids from Africa.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *MOLUCCOBIUS**

- 1 (8) Prothorax as long as broad or a little longer; scape of antennae nearly reaching middle of prothorax; head not carinulate.
- 2 (7) Pronotum closely punctate, the punctures on the disk as wide or wider than the intervals, though often partly obscured by scales.
- 3 (4) Front femora very strongly arcuate on the dorsal edge; pronotum with a complete white stripe on each side; elytra with two complete white bands (interrupted only by the suture) (New Guinea) *ligatus* Pasc.
- 4 (3) Front femora normal; pronotum with a lateral stripe of bluish green scales on the basal half only, or without any stripe; elytra with more or less greenish scales and without white bands.
- 5 (6) Pronotum with a broad green stripe on each side on the basal half and a narrow median stripe on the apical half; elytra with blackish scales and various definite green spots; aedeagus of ♂ terminating in the form of a pointed spoon (Kaioa, Halmaheira) *wallacei* Mshl.
- 5 (6a) Pronotum with a broad medium area, bordered by lateral stripes of pale green scales; the lateral stripes are joined apically by a submarginal band of scales; elytra with a crescent-shaped band of scales extending along the humeral area and laterally back along intervals 8 to 10; an interrupted band of scales at the middle; Aedeagus spatulate in shape (Moluccas: Morotai Island) *marshalli* sp. n.
- 6 (5) Pronotum and elytra without definite green stripes or spots, but with numerous pale green, pale coppery and grey scales; aedeagus of ♂ terminating in two long processes turning up into a sharp hook at the apex (Batchian) *uncifer* Mshl.
- 7 (2) Pronotum nearly devoid of scales in the middle, sparsely punctate, the intervals on the disk much wider than the punctures (Morty, Batchian, Halmaheira) *notatus* Mshl.
- 8 (1) Prothorax transverse; scape of antennae only shortly exceeding front margin of prothorax; head carinulate (Aru Is.) .. *brevicornis* Mshl.

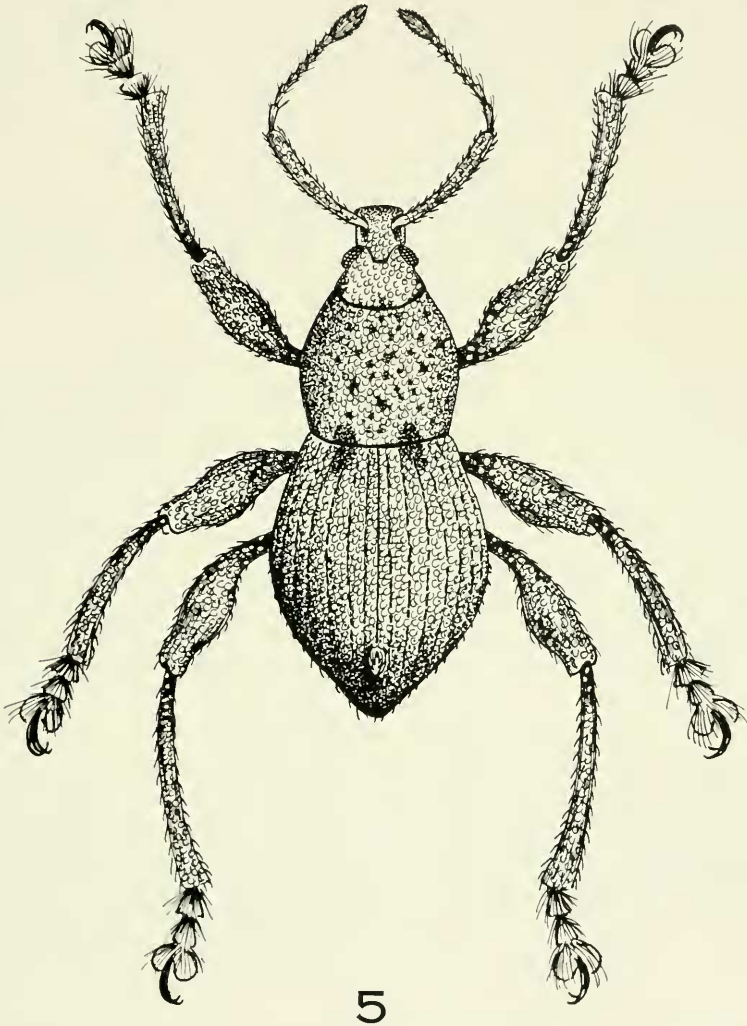
*Sir Guy Marshall's key to the species of *Moluccobius*, p. 41.*Lophothes reimschiüsseli* sp. n.

Body black, antennae and legs red-brown, with small regular grey scales; prothorax evenly punctate. Punctures larger than the intervals; scales arranged around the punctures in circular figures; elytra with uniform coverage of grey scales and recumbent brown setae on the intervals; small tuft of erect setae on the declivity of the suture of the females; ventrite 2 longer than 3 - 4 - 5.

HEAD smooth with shallow punctures surrounded with round grey scales, the eyes round, large and greatly convex.

ROSTRUM longer than broad widening apically with an abrupt apical declivity, which is sparsely squamose; the narrow space between the scrobes as wide as the apex of the scape; frons separated from the rostrum by a sulcus that extends downward in contact with the eyes. ANTENNAE stout, the scape extends beyond the middle of the prothorax; funicle reaches the middle of the elytra; segments 1 and 2 equal, segments 3 to 7 as broad as long. PROTHORAX with the truncate base wider than the apex; rounded laterally, widest behind the middle, with no granules; elytra uniform color, widest before the middle, striae distinct but shallow with small punctures, intervals

twice the width of the striae, with a yellow-brown decumbent setae, males devoid of a tuft of setae on the suture, tuft present in the females. LEGS with hind femora not reaching the apex of the elytra;



5

Fig. 5. *Lophothetes reimschüsseli* sp. n.

femora moderately clavate, tibiae not denticulate, segment 3 of the tarsi with erect whitish setae, more than twice as wide as the second segment. AEDEAGUS Figs. 6 and 7; spermatheca Fig. 8.

Type and 38 paratypes collected by Ernest Reimschiissel in September 1944, at Manus, Admiralty Islands. Paratypes have been deposited in the following institutions: British Museum, Natural History; U. S. National Museum; California Academy of Sciences; Museum, G. Frey, Tutzing; and Brigham Young University.

REMARKS: *Reimschiisseli* is similar to the genotype *penicilliger* (Heller) found on New Britain. The similarity is drawn from the description given by Heller. The spermatheca and aedeagus are different from species of this genus found on Guam.

LITERATURE CITED

- Marshall, Sir Guy A. K. 1956. The Otiorrhynchine Curculionidae of the tribe Celeuthetini (Col.) British Museum. pp. 1-134.
Zimmerman, Elwood C. 1942. Insects of Guam - 1. Curculionidae of Guam. pp. 73-146. pls. 1-7.